



## **MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES**

### **EMERGENCY ORDER**

No. 062210-1

#### **MAXIMUM TOW TIME REQUIREMENT FOR SKIMMER TRAWLS**

On April 30, 2010, pursuant to the authority prescribed by Mississippi Code Ann. § 33-15-11, the Governor of the State of Mississippi issued a Proclamation declaring a State of Emergency to exist in the State of Mississippi as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Pursuant to the Emergency Proclamation and the provisions of Mississippi Code Ann. § 33-15-31, the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is authorized to issue orders and enact rules and regulations to protect the marine resources of the State of Mississippi.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources has determined that the Deepwater Horizon oil spill has resulted in an abnormal number of sea turtles in the marine waters of the State of Mississippi. In order to protect sea turtles and increase the survivability of sea turtles captured in trawls, the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources hereby declares, orders and enacts the following Emergency Order:

The maximum tow time limit shall not apply to any trawl equipped with a National Marine Fisheries Service approved and operable Turtle Excluder Device. The maximum tow time for skimmer trawls (including pusher-head trawls) is thirty (30) minutes. The tow time is measured from the time the codend enters the water until it is removed from the water. This Emergency Order shall not affect nor alter the provisions of Title 22 Part 6.

All other shrimping regulations shall remain in full force and effect.

As provided in Mississippi Code Ann. § 33-15-43, violations of this Emergency Order are punishable by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or imprisonment for not exceeding six (6) months or both.

This Emergency Order shall remain in effect until further order or for the duration of the State of Emergency. This Order will take effect and be in force beginning at 12:01a.m. June 23<sup>th</sup> 2010.

**So Ordered this the 22<sup>nd</sup> Day of June, 2010**

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES**

By: Dr. A. Deaf For  
William W. Walker, Ph.D., Executive Director